



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION COLLEGE SAVINGS MONTH

- WHEREAS: Georgia families understand the value of a college education and recognize it is one of the most important things we can do for our children. The constantly rising costs of higher education continue to outpace inflation, and without proper planning, can jeopardize a family's ability to ensure their children have access to college; and
- WHEREAS: There is an earnings gap between those with a high school diploma and those with a bachelor's degree or beyond that exceeds \$1 million over a lifetime, making college an investment in our children's future; and
- WHEREAS: Loan programs are the primary source of financial aid for college students, forcing many students to graduate with large amounts of debt that must be repaid long after they have completed their education; and
- WHEREAS: The State of Georgia recognizes the need to encourage saving rather than borrowing to enable Georgia families to meet their higher education goals; and
- WHEREAS: In accordance with state and federal law, the State of Georgia has established the Path2College 529 Plan – a Section 529 college savings plan that offers both state and federal tax advantages – to encourage saving for higher education expenses to promote educational opportunity for all Georgians; now
- THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim September 2016 as COLLEGE SAVINGS MONTH in Georgia and call upon all Georgians to join me in recognizing the value of higher education and to begin saving early and consistently for our children's future.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 11th day of July in the year of our Lord two thousand sixteen.



Nathan Deal

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

Chris W. Riley

CHIEF OF STAFF